

June 7, 2023

Representative Laurie Pohutsky, Chair
Committee on Natural Resources, Environment, Tourism and Outdoor Recreation
Michigan House of Representatives
Lansing, MI 48909

RE: INDA Testimony on HB 4596

Dear Chair Pohutsky and Committee Members:

On behalf of INDA, the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, thank you for the opportunity to provide input on HB 4596.

INDA's member companies include almost all wipes fabric makers, wipes manufacturers, and many brand owners operating in North America. Our members are committed to the design and marketing of wipes products to meet the expectations of consumers while minimizing post-consumer impacts on municipal wastewater infrastructure and the environment.

INDA and its members recognize that municipal wastewater treatment facilities are having difficulties with consumers flushing certain wipes that were not designed nor labeled to be disposed of in the toilet and we are committed to being a part of the solution to that challenge.

INDA has been proactive in working with the wastewater industry to promote bills very similar to HB 4596 in other states and this collaboration has led to the successful passage of model labeling standards in Illinois, California, Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. These measures have enjoyed such strong support throughout numerous states because they represent the collaboration of and consensus among wastewater and industry stakeholders and are broadly recognized as a common-sense solution to address the problem at hand as documented by forensic studies of wastewater clogs.

While HB 4596 as introduced captures much of the spirit of the labeling standards in the above states, several technical changes are required to fully align the bill with what has been passed in other states, to ensure that definitions and labeling specifications are harmonized across the states and that technical inconsistencies do not create any unintended supply change disruptions of the many wipes products relied on for health and wellbeing.

We have shared suggested language that would bring this legislation into harmony with existing state laws and **will be happy to fully and strongly support this legislation as long as it matches the existing state standards.**

I would also like to highlight that INDA has worked in coordination with wastewater and environmental stakeholders to introduce the bipartisan Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety (WIPPES) Act (H.R. 2964/S. 1350), currently pending in the 118th Congress. I urge you to encourage your congressional delegation to cosponsor the WIPPES Act, which would implement these labeling standards at the federal level.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on this important legislation. If you have any questions or if we can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at wfisher@inda.org.

Sincerely,



Wes Fisher
Director of Government Affairs
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry